Defectors' Link With Red Secret Police Disclosed

By FRED S. HOFFMAN

WASHINGTON. (AP) — Two European-born U.S. soldiers who defected to the Russians more than four years ago were disclosed today to have had prior connections with the Soviet secret police.

The two, both World War II displaced persons, were stationed in West Germany with U.S. Army units when they crossed over to the Russians separately in the summer of 1960. Their defection and identities were disclosed then, but not their prior connection with the Soviet secret police.

One was Vladimir Sloboda, a native of the Ukraine, who is now 37. The other was Joseph Dutkanicz, a native of Poland who died a year ago today at the age of 37.

THEIR DEFECTION was mentioned two months ago in the Warren Commission's report on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In discussing Soviet defection procedures — Lee Harvey Oswald, Kennedy's assassin, had defected to the Soviet Union after leaving the U.S. Marine Corps—the commission report quoted the Central Intelligence Agency:

"Two defectors from U.S. Army intelligence units in West Germany appeared to have been given citizenship immediately, but both had prior KGB (Russian secret police) connections and fled as a result of Army security checks."

The CIA did not identify the two defectors in the Warren report.

The Associated Press asked the Army for their names and records. Now, two months later, the Army—after consulting with the CIA—reports the defectors referred to by the CIA and the two who crossed over in the summer of 1960 are the same.

THERE WERE indications the CIA was reluctant to elaborate on the Warren Commission reference.

Sloboda has made broadcasts denouncing the United States and "has also written articles for the Soviet press which follow the Soviet propaganda line," the Army said. He now lives in Lvov, a former Polish city now part of the Soviet Union.

Dutkanicz worked in a television factory before he died in Lvov, the Army said.

After their defection, the Russians quoted Sloboda and Dutkanicz as saying they acted partly out of revulsion against U2 spy plane flights over Russia. This was shortly after Francis Gary Powers was shot down over the Soviet Union while on a U2 spy flight.

The Army supplied no details on how, where or when the two men had had connections with the Russian secret police.

ITS SUMMARY, furnished to The Associated Press, said Sloboda was born in Podkamien in the Ukraine and during World War II was sent to Germany as a forced laborer. After the war, he spent time in a displaced persons camp in Germany, emigrated to England, and then returned to Germany where he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1953.

After basic training in the United States, Sloboda was assigned in August, 1958, to an Army military intelligence group in Europe. Two years later he defected.

The Army summary said Dutkanicz was a native of Gorlice Bartne in Poland, entered the United States in December, 1946, and was inducted into the Army in February, 1951.

After nearly six years of service in the United States, Dutkanicz was sent to Germany in 1957. Although the CIA spoke of both defectors as having served with intelligence units, the Army summary said Dutkanicz belonged to a signal battallion at Darmstadt before defecting in July, 1960.